

USSR

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QUESTION OF GIVING "IRA" A MONTHLY ALLOWANCE.

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No.: 1656

27 November 1944

To VICTOR.

IRA[i] is supposed to receive a monthly allowance of 35 dollars. Inasmuch as she is not at present working in our line[ii] should she be paid the allowance taking into account that even those members of THE NINE [DEVYATKA][iii] who are already fulfilling concrete tasks receive nothing from us? In our estimation it is not worth it.

No. 921

MAY [MAJ][iv]

To BORISOV.

Cipher code book [SHIFRKOD] copy no. 68 has been received. The certificate of destruction of the old one [is being sent][a] by the regular mail.

MAY [MAJ]

[T.N. and Comments overleaf]

Distribution

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~~TOP SECRET~~
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T.N.: [a] Inserted by translator.

Comments: [i] IRA: Maria Andreevna TOLSTIKOVA (née LEBEDEVA), wife of RUBIN (Valentin Efimovich TOLSTIKOV); on 7th June 1944 it appeared that RUBIN was one of THE TEN (unpublished text, NEW YORK external serial no. 1051); Also on 7th June 1944 MAJ said that IRA was then working in ANTON's department (i.e. the Soviet Purchasing Commission) and asked permission to transfer her in place of KATYA [Ekaterina Nikitichna GOLOVINA] as a typist in the Secret Cipher Section [SShO] at the Office [unpublished text, NEW YORK external serial no. 828]; from other references to KATYA's departure, it appears that this proposal was not agreed to by MOSCOW [compare S/NBF/T22, Item 2, and S/NBF/T46, Items 3 and 4].

[ii] Presumably this means "not at present working for the MGB".

[iii] DEVYATKA: a group of Russian students in NEW YORK, who appeared to vary in number from time to time, and were accordingly known as "THE TEN", "THE NINE", "THE FOUR", depending apparently on their numerical strength at the time.

[iv] MAJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV.
